



CAMPUS PLANNING SERVICES
<http://www.uvm.edu/~plan/>

MEMORANDUM

To: UVM Faculty and Staff at 19 Roosevelt Highway, Colchester, and 106 Highpoint Center, Colchester

From: Julie Barrett, Real Estate Manager, Campus Planning Services, UVM

Date: January 28, 2013

Re: Whitcomb Asphalt Plant, Colchester

cc: Richard H. Cate, Vice President for Finance and Administration and University Treasurer, UVM
Linda Seavey, Director, Campus Planning Services, UVM
Mary Dewey, Director, Risk Management and Safety, UVM
Francis Churchill, Assistant Director for Health & Safety, Risk Management and Safety, UVM
Jeff Rogers, Environmental Compliance Manager, Risk Management and Safety, UVM
Jim Antell, Farrell/Antell Properties
Ted Child, Child Travel
John Hinckley, Senior Consultant, RSG, Inc.

As you know, due to the winter weather conditions, the Whitcomb plant adjacent to 19 Roosevelt Highway and 106 Highpoint Center is not currently producing asphalt, but weather permitting, will resume operations in early spring. In response to concerns about the air quality from the Whitcomb Asphalt Plant adjacent to 19 Roosevelt Highway and 106 Highpoint Center in Colchester, UVM worked with our landlords, their consultants and the state of Vermont to address these concerns. Below I have provided you a status update relative to the plant operations.

1. Recycled Asphalt Product (RAP):

Within the asphalt industry, RAP is commonly incorporated in the new asphalt mixture. The moisture of the RAP can have a direct impact on the amount of odor and fumes emitted from the new asphalt that is produced. Uncrushed RAP sheds moisture and crushed RAP absorbs moisture. In order to reduce the odor and fumes produced, the State of Vermont required Whitcomb to reduce the moisture content of the RAP. Whitcomb ceased crushing RAP in the rain and is now storing crushed RAP out of the elements under a newly installed covered structure. Whitcomb is required to measure and record RAP moisture content daily to verify the effectiveness of these operational changes. The target moisture content for RAP is approximately 4%. The readings that have been recorded since these operational changes show RAP at and below that level.

2. Mechanical Changes:

New duct work was installed on the batch tower where the asphalt is produced to capture any steam released when RAP is introduced. Regardless, there should not be significant quantities of steam released provided the RAP used has low moisture content; therefore, the duct work can be viewed as an extra safety precaution.

3. Production Changes:

For economic and environmental reasons, the industry has been shifting from HMA to WMA for economic and environmental reasons. WMA is approximately 50 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than HMA. As a result, there is significantly less evaporation of odorous compounds from the mix product. Previously, Whitcomb produced only Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA), but has begun producing Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA).

Ecosorb is an odor neutralizer that has been used successfully at other asphalt plants throughout the country. The product is mixed with liquid asphalt and binds the odor compounds within the hot or warm mix. Whitcomb began using Ecosorb in its production process.

4. Regulatory update:

The Vermont Air Pollution Control Division (APCD), enforcement division, has performed three site inspections to ensure the aforementioned work was completed. During those site visits no significant odors were observed in the parking lot or inside the buildings.

5. Future Work:

The APCD will update Whitcomb's air pollution control permit to include permit conditions reflecting changes made to date to ensure they are carried out in the future.

6. Summary and Next Steps:

As a result of the above efforts, we are optimistic that the previous problems associated with the asphalt plant will be significantly reduced going forward. It is impossible to eliminate all odors or effects from the plant but we are confident the situation has been greatly improved already and so long as the operator continues to adhere to the above requirements, the positive benefits should continue. If, however, you experience any problems, please contact me immediately at Julie.Barrett@UVM.edu and also carbon copy Julianne Heisler at Julianne.Heisler@UVM.edu. Additionally, the state of Vermont has prepared an Odor Complaint Form which they request each person witnessing problems from the plant to complete, attached. Once you complete the Form (one form per incident per person), please forward to Julianne Heisler and me by email and we will circulate to the necessary parties. In order for the State to investigate each complaint as diligently as possible, it is important that you complete the Form as soon as possible when you witness the problem.

Thank you for your invaluable feedback. It has really made a difference in terms of the above requirements.

Encl.